

# PLASMA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

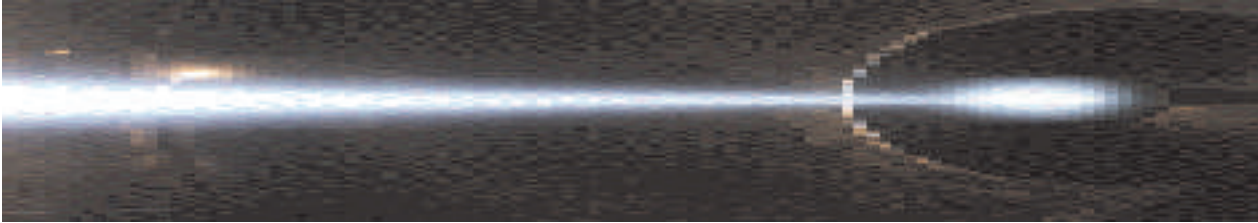


Image courtesy of the Alfven Laboratory  
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## Plasma - the fourth state of matter

Plasmas are a quasineutral gas of charged and neutral particles which exhibit collective behavior (Francis Chen, Introduction to Plasma Physics, Plenum Press, 1974, 1984). They encompass distinguishable scales ranging from the atomic to the galactic. Topical areas of plasma science are as rich and diverse as for any other state of matter although most applications have emerged only within the past two decades. For an excellent summary of plasma science and technology, see the U.S. National Academy of Sciences [Plasma Science Report](#).

Plasmas as "The Pervasive Plasma State," an [essay](#) by James Glanz, has been recently published in a new brochure from the Division of Plasma Physics (DPP) of the American Physical Society.

For the full text and graphics version check out the [DPP](#) Education and Outreach.

## Plasma Science Topics and Resources

### Major areas of plasma science and technology: